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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

TWO SUGGESTIONS

DEAR EDITOR: Nurses should always wash off the outside of milk bottles before placing them in the refrigerator, as the hands of the milkman may be covered with germs.

Sometimes in summer, a nurse finds herself in the cottage of a hotel or club, caring for a patient. One day last summer I was sent to a summer resort with a small child, suffering with colitis. The child had many stools during the day and we were in a cottage without a toilet, the only one accessible being across the lawn in the main hotel. It was very embarrassing to carry a slop jar back and forth, as there were always a number of young people out under the trees. Also the weather was far too hot to wait until after dark as these discharges would attract flies. So I went down to the village and purchased a small tin pail with a lid, which I could slip under the commode. Then, as I also carried broth and milk back and forth in a similar pail, no one could detect one from the other.

Massachusetts.

M. E. H.

HOSPITALS MUST ECONOMIZE

DEAR EDITOR: I have often thought that the use of hospital supplies could be greatly economized if all the staff would coöperate and help reduce needless expenditure. Every effort should be made to save waste always, but at this time it is an absolute duty, as war has been declared and the country has great expense and trouble to contend with. The suggestion-box which many offices and factories have, gives employees a chance to help the owners decrease waste and expense. The company pays a dollar or so to the person who makes a suggestion which is accepted. This inducement is necessary, for few workers are altruistic enough to spend their spare time for their employers' good. Into the suggestion-box are put ideas the workers have thought out, that might improve the business in any way. The following story is a good example of this. A business man gave a bright office boy in his employment \$10 for a suggestion that would save the firm \$20 or more a day! The boy was delighted with his reward and would tell his fellow-workers of his good fortune. Many of them would bring similar plans to their employer in hope of the same reward. "It pays to advertise" seems to be the business men's motto and *they* know that coöperation with the workers oils the wheels of business and helps the machinery run smoothly. Why cannot hospitals adopt more business-like methods and allow the nurses in training to express their opinions? Many will reply to this question by saying that hospitals are run on military lines and are disciplined accordingly; that may be so, but in both army and navy, the chief in command gives some of his time to complaints of his officers and men and will quietly consider new plans. In the average training school the nurses receive a very cold reception if they venture to make any suggestions and may